

Because You Loved Us First Bible Study
 Leader's Copy
 By Bonnie Mark (for Teresa Hallock)

CHAPTER 10

LIVING LOVE AS A NEW WAY OF LIFE

“Be not conformed to this world,
 But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,
 That ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable,
 And perfect will of God.”
 (Romans 12:2)

1. Read Galatians 6:1-3. In verse 3, what do you think it means to think of ourselves as “something” and really be “nothing”?
 (Personal response)
 Do you think “self efforts” could be a part of this?
 (Personal response)
2. In Teresa’s book, she explains that as she became more aware that Jesus is not as interested in “performance” as He is in “attitude”, she saw that she must interact with people in the same way if they were to see Jesus in and through her. How do you think people see Jesus in and through you at this stage of your Christian walk?
 (Personal response)
3. God doesn’t love us more as Christians than He did when we were non-Christians. See Romans 5:8-18. Verse 8 says that, “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” But what changes is our ability to respond to His love. See 1 John 4:19 and 1 Corinthians 2:9-12. How can we share God’s love with no strings attached and nothing to be expected in return from others? What will that look like in everyday life?
 (Personal response)
4. In Teresa’s book, she states, “When we walk in love, Holy Spirit prepares others for their encounter with Him through us. And results are positive as we are obedient to share His love. We have been created unto good works because of our union with Him. The good works are not self effort, but an overflow from the abundant life we have in Him. We don’t have to go looking for people to help; we simply encounter them as we are going through each day in the mainstream of life.” Have you noticed or experienced this natural flow or are you still feeling “driven” in your service for the Lord?
 (Personal response)
 If you still feel “driven”, why not talk to God about this and ask Him to set you free to flow with Him?
5. As we learn to let God work through us, we will often find it necessary to become involved in situations with people of *His* choosing. Teresa explains in her book that this was the hardest adjustment she had to make. She had to be willing to get involved with those crying out to God for help—those who had come into the sphere of her life. Do you sometimes find it hard to accept the people God has allowed to cross your path?
 (Personal response)

6. Teresa writes, "When people came to Jesus with a need, He immediately dealt with the problem. He accepted people where they were. Sinful men and women didn't seem to bother Him much, but He was incensed by the pride and tradition of the religious of the day." Can we ever really know exactly where another person is coming from or is that God's job?

(Personal response)

Have you found in your life that you have pre-judged people or situations?

(Personal response)

Why not ask God to forgive you? He absolutely will!

7. What do you think it means to "rest" in our union with Jesus?

(Personal response)

Do you think it is enough just to know you are pleasing *God* in your daily activities? Can we be *all* things to all people? Was Jesus as He walked the earth?

(Personal response)

8. Teresa's husband often said, "Me plus God is enough." Will you let God be "enough" in your life? Ask God to help you do this.

(Personal response)

9. Read 1 John 4:7-19. What does this passage say to you about God and His love? What is our response to His marvelous love for us?

(Personal response)

Say this prayer with me:

Dear Lord, thank You for loving me first. Please help me to abide in that love so that I may abide in You, and You in me. Help me to demonstrate Your love to all those You bring across my path. Help me to love them with "no strings attached" or prejudice. Help me to stop "striving" and "driving" myself unto good works. Teach me to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit from this day forward. Let me be Your light in this world, an overflowing example of Your precious love. Amen and amen!